

Application No.: 10/715637

Case No.: 59385US002

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 16 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-15 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 6, 11, and 16 are amended. Applicant reserve the right to file a continuation application directed to the cancelled claims.

**§ 112 Rejections**

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide the appropriate antecedent basis to "a rear sliding member." With the amendment, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 USC § 112, ¶2, has been overcome, and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

**§ 102 Rejection**

Claims 1-5, 7, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,616,798 (Smeenge et al.). This rejection has been rendered moot because the pertinent claims have been cancelled.

**§ 103 Rejections**

Claims 8-10, 12 and 15 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smeenge '798 in view of US Patent No. 6,116,557 (Choy et al.). This rejection has been rendered moot because the pertinent claims have been cancelled.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 6, 11, and 16 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 6 to include all the features of base claim 1 and the features of the intervening claims 2, 3, and 4. Applicant has amended claim 11 to include all the features of base claim 1. And, Applicant has amended claim 16 to include all the features of base claim 1 and the features of intervening claims 7, 8 and 15.

Application No.: 10/715637

Case No.: 59385US002

With the claim amendments, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 6, 11, and 16, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

01 April 2005  
Date

By: Yen Tong Florczak  
Yen Tong Florczak, Reg. No.: 45,163  
Telephone No.: (651) 737-0710

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833